

Message Text

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16
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 IO-13 AID-05 /088 W
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R 271605Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3153
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GE, IN
SUBJECT: PROBABLY VISIT OF HONECKER TO INDIA

REF: BERLIN 6/236

1. INDIAN AMBASSADOR DEO INFORMED AN EMBASSY OFFICER
AUGUST 26 THAT SED GENERAL SECRETARY HONECKER IS EXPECTED
TO VISIT INDIA WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR OR SO. HONECKER'S
VISIT WOULD BE IN RESPONSE TO PRIME MINISTER GANDHI'S
INVITATION TO HIM EXTENDED DURING HER VISIT HERE IN EARLY
JULY. WHEN ASKED IF THE HONECKER VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE
THIS YEAR, AMBASSADOR DEO REPLIED IT WAS POSSIBLE IN
EARLY 1977.

2. AMBASSADOR DEO WAS RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS OR APPRAISE
THE RESULTS OF THE GANDHI VISIT HERE. HE DID, HOWEVER,
CONFIRM NEWSPAPER REPORTS THAT THE INDO-GDR FRIENDSHIP
SOCIETY IS VERY ACTIVE IN INDIA AND HAS A NUMBER
OF OFFICES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. ACCORDING
TO LOCAL NEWSPAPERS AN INDO-GDR FRIENDSHIP WEEK IS
TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR IN INDIA.

3. COMMENT: VIEWED FROM AN EAST BERLIN PROSPECTIVE,
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THE GDR SEEMS TO HAVE HAD A GOOD DEAL OF SUCCESS IN

ESTABLISHING A PRESENCE IN INDIA AND HAS SUCCEEDED IN
PULLING OFF A NUMBER OF HIGH-LEVEL VISITS TO INDIA DURING
THE THREE YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. SOME OF THE
CREDIT FOR THIS SUCCESS UNDOUBEDLY BELONGS TO AMBASSADOR
DEO HIMSELF WHO HAS QUIETLY AND BEHIND THE SENE ENCOURAGED
CLOSER CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE GANDHI
VISIT HERE AND THE PROJECTED HONECKER VISIT TO INDIA SERVE
THE BROAD PURPOSE OF SHOWING GDR ACCEPTANCE ABROAD,
PARTICULARLY IN THE THIRD WORLD. WE ANTICIPATE
THAT FURTHER HIGH-LEVEL VISITS WILL ALSO TAKE PLACE
INCLUDING, PERHAPS, ANOTHER VISIT OF A GDR VOLKSKAMMER
DELEGATION TO NEW DELHI. COOPER

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